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CLAIMS

1.   A method for generating an authentication rating for an entity, comprising:
receiving a message identifying an entity, which message requires authentication of said
5   entity;
receiving data from each of a plurality of sources, said data representing at least a rating
for said authentication according to a criteria;
analysing said received data using a set of predefined fuzzy inferencing rules so as to
calculate an authentication rating for said entity
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2.   A method according to claim 1, wherein said data from each source comprise
data representing a trust rating for said entity and data representing an associated
confidence rating.

15 3.   A method according to claim 2, wherein the analysis comprises:
combining said plurality of data representing a trust rating using a first predefined
set of fuzzy inferencing rules so as to calculate a combined trust rating;
combining said plurality of confidence rating data using a second predefined set
of fuzzy inferencing rules to calculate a combined confidence rating;
20   and then analysing said combined trust rating and said combined confidence
rating using a third predefined set of fuzzy inferencing rules so as to calculate said
authentication rating.

4.   A method according to any preceding claim, where one of the sources is a local
25 store for storing previous case data relating to a user.

5.   A system for generating an authentication rating for an entity, comprising:
receiving means for receiving a message identifying an entity, which message
requires identification of said entity;
30   the receiving means being further arranged to receive in use from each of a
plurality of sources data representing a rating of said entity according to a criteria; and
processing means arranged in use to analyse said received data using a set of
predefined fuzzy inferencing rules so as to calculate an authentication rating for said
entity.
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6.   A system according to claim 5, said processing means being further arranged to compare said authentication rating with a predefined policy so as to determine whether to issue an authenticate signal.

5   7.   A computer program or suite of programs executable by a computer system to cause the system to perform the method of any of claims 1 to 4.

8.   A modulated carrier signal incorporating data corresponding to the computer program or at least one of the suite of programs of claim 7.

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9.   A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program or at least one of a suite of computer programs as claimed in claim 7.